possible steps to ensure that Hindi is recognized as one of the official languages of the UN. NRI Organisations abroad should also make an effort to get the support of the Governments of their respective country.

In addition, as a result of the discussions and deliberations held during the 8th World Hindi Conference, the following is proposed:

1. In order to popularize teaching of Hindi and Devnagari script, a standardized syllabus be prepared for teaching Hindi as a second language and a system be evolved to recognise Hindi teachers.

2. To ensure active and purposeful functioning of the World Hindi Secretariat, the Governments of India and Mauritius should extend all possible administrative and financial assistance to the Secretariat and should consider setting up of regional offices of the Secretariat in Delhi and in 4-5 other countries. The Conference calls upon the Secretariat to develop a website on "Viswa Manch Per Hindi" in order to popularize Hindi.

3. Simple and good books in Hindi on science, technology and technical subjects should be encouraged. Effective measures be taken to popularize information technology in Hindi. A system based on universally recognized Unicode be developed and made available to all.

4. Database of foreign universities and schools where Hindi is taught be prepared. A list of Hindi teachers should also be prepared.

5. The Conference calls upon the Hindi lovers of the world, especially non-resident Indians and Indian nationals working abroad to assist in promotion and propagation of Hindi language and literature abroad.

6. Arrangement for research scholarship be made for foreign Hindi scholars at the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyala, Wardha.

7. Kendriya Hindi Sansthan should also contribute actively in promotion of Hindi abroad and preparation of Hindi syllabus.

8. Setting up of Hindi chairs in foreign university be considered.

9. In addition to being a language of literature, Hindi should also be used as a language of modem science and commerce.

10. India should encourage use of Hindi at National and International level symposia and conferences.

Indian industrialists in Nepal

†2523. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Indian industrialists living in Nepal and people of Indian origin working there are being threatened for money extortion and to flee from Nepal;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government have had any talk with the Nepal Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of people of Indian origin living in Nepal are making an exodus to Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to check these anti-India activities going on in Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There have been incidents of extortion and intimidation in Nepal, which have also affected some Indian business enterprises, joint ventures and people of Indian origin in Nepal.

(b) to (d) Cases involving the safety and security of people of Indian origin in Nepal, including Indian business enterprises and joint ventures have been taken up by the Government of India with the Government of Nepal, including at the highest levels. The Government of Nepal has been requested to investigate these cases and provide adequate security and safety to all Indians, whose welfare and security is of prime concern to the Government of India.

There are no reports to suggest that a large number of people of Indian origin living in Nepal are making an exodus to Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh.

Problems of Bhutanese Refugees

†2524. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Bhutanese refugees are frequently trying to go back to Bhutan by crossing the border of India;

(b) whether Government are considering to solve this problem by mediating between Bhutan and Nepal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) There are no reports to suggest that Bhutanese Refugees are frequently trying to cross the border of India. Government are, however, aware of a recent incident where Bhutanese Refugees attempted to cross the Indian border during May, 28-30, 2007 at Mechi Bridge. This issue has been under discussion between the governments of Nepal and Bhutan, both of which are friendly neighbours of India. Government are working with all concerned in order to deal with what is primarily a humanitarian issue, to minimise the adverse consequences for the people involved.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.